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News Release

For Immediate Release

Detroit VA Healthcare System Celebrates Volunteers

April 4, 2014 event and week-long salute to recognize dedication and commitment of medical center's thousands of volunteers

DETROIT – April 6 through 12, 2014, is National Volunteer Week and the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) will use the opportunity to thank more than 79,000 citizen volunteers who give back to Veterans every day at local VA medical facilities.

The **Detroit VA Healthcare System** will recognize the more than 1,200 volunteers for 92,000 hours they contributed toward caring for Veterans, driving, directing, sitting, serving, comforting and counseling on a regular basis in 2013. These events will take place both during the week and just prior to the national week at the annual Volunteer Awards Program, **Friday, April 4, 2014, 11:00 a.m.** at the Shriners Event Center in Southfield.

"Volunteers are a vital part of the history of the Detroit VA," said Dr. Pamela Reeves, Medical Center Director. "For more than 68 years, thousands of men and women from this area have shared their time and energy with our heroes. This is our opportunity to say 'thanks'."

Of course, National Volunteer Week also presents an opportunity for other citizens to join the ranks of appreciative citizens serving Veterans. VA is inviting everyone in the community to explore how they can use their skills and unique assets to thank Veterans with service of their own.

"There are as many ways to volunteer as there are willing people to do so," said Dr. Reeves. "When I walk through our hallways, it puts a huge smile on my face when I visit patients who tell me

how much better they feel after a visit from a volunteer who has brought them a handmade afghan or a few paperback books. Our volunteers are heroes!”

“We have volunteers here in Detroit, who have been with us for decades,” said William Browning, Chief of Volunteer and Community Relations at the Detroit VA Healthcare System. “It’s important to remember that no medical experience is necessary when it comes to volunteering time and effort for our Veterans. Volunteering is both healthy and rewarding”

For more information on volunteering with the Detroit VA, visit www.detroit.va.gov.

Since 1939, the Detroit VA Healthcare System has been improving the health of the men and women who have so proudly served our nation. In 1996, the medical center moved from Allen Park, Michigan to the current location on John R. in Detroit. One of the newer VA facilities in the country, we consider it our privilege to serve the health care needs of our Veterans. Services are available to more than 330,000 Veterans living in Wayne, Oakland, Macomb, and St. Clair counties. This population represents approximately forty-four percent of the Veteran population in the lower peninsula of Michigan. For more information, visit <http://www.detroit.va.gov>.

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